

Chocolate in the Afternoon

by

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1.INT. OFFICE- MORNING

An office door sits slightly ajar, the name plate is visible, 'Sonia Wood, Features'. SONIA sits at her desk, bent over, all her attention focused on her computer screen. Articles are piled neatly in one stack, a notepad and books on another, a half-eaten chocolate bar sits within arms reach. She picks up the chocolate and scans the news article: "10 Tips For Getting Over Mr. Wrong". She takes a sip of coffee, sucks her teeth (makes disapproving sound) when she realizes that it's done, gets up, goes to the coffee machine and refills. Back at her desk, Sonia continues to work and sips coffee, but looks up when ROB her editor raps lightly on the door. He peeks his head inside.

ROB

How's that article coming?

SONIA

(smiling)

Finished.

He nods. Is about to leave. Then stops.

ROB

Are you ready for Saturday?

SONIA

(playfully)

All set boss! We got this.

She gives him the thumbs up.

ROB

(More seriously)

We really need to nail this coverage Sonia. If it's done correctly, it could mean big things..

She nods affirmatively. He gives her the thumbs up in return, closes the door and leaves. Sonia looks at the article on the screen, twiddles the worn out friendship bracelet on her wrist, does another read through and adds it to the office files. Begins another article.

2.INT. APARTMENT - EVENING

Sonia drops her mail on the microwave, opens the fridge and pulls out one of the many take-away containers. She pops it in the microwave and heads to the bedroom.

3.INT. BEDROOM - EVENING

She goes to the closet pulls out a small suitcase places it on the bed and carefully selects a few items. Her phone buzzes, but she continues to pack. It stops. Then buzzes again, a bit annoyed she glances at the caller ID, and freezes. Sonia nervously touches her hair, then answers.

SONIA

Hi?

EVAN

Hi Sonia, how are you?

Nothing. She unloosens her ponytail. Silence.

EVAN

I've been meaning to call..

(pause)

I'm back in town and I'd really like to see you.

Sonia bites her lip.

SONIA

Ummm, hold on a minute.

Sonia goes to the window, takes the phone from her ear, takes a breath. She hears Evan's voice on the other end.

EVAN.

Sonia?

SONIA

Yeah..

Sonia walks to the bed. Sits. Evan rushes on.

EVAN

There's this new joint, Fondue? Are you free Saturday? I've made reservations for 2pm.

SONIA

(mumbling)

I'll.. I'll have to see.

Sonia hangs up. She closes the suitcase. Goes to the dresser and picks up the prescription of Xanax, it's empty.

SONIA

(underneath her breath)

Shit..

She massages her neck, picks up the phone and sends a message (TEXT): 'He's back in town and wants to see me.' SEND. A few minutes later her phone rings.

SONIA

Hey Evelyn.

EVELYN

Girl! I'm on my way over.

Still standing, Sonia places her phone down and grabs a chocolate bar from her stash. She goes to the wardrobe and takes the box from the bottom shelf and places it on the

bed. She riffles through the contents and stops on a smiling picture of her and Evan sitting in a cafe. She looks at it for a few minutes, her hand brushes lightly across his face, before she places it on the bed. She spots the letter and starts to read: 'Sonia, this is a tough decision'... her eyes scans a few lines further down.. 'Our time spent in Montreal are my fondest memories'..

She puts the letter aside, eats chocolate and continues her exploration of the box. She sees an old Zanax prescription, hastily opens it, it's empty. Exasperated, she stretches out on the bed. She picks up the picture again stares at it.
TIME PASSES.

The door bell rings. Sonia gets up and goes to answer the door.

4.INT. LIVING ROOM - EVENING

EVELYN greets her with a hug.

EVELYN
How you doing?

Sonia shrugs. They sit on the sofa. She opens the tin container on the table, takes out a few Hersey's Kisses, pops them in her mouth. Evelyn looks at her, shaking her head. Smiles.

EVELYN
Addict.
(After a bit)
What did Evan say? Are you gonna meet him?

SONIA
Evelyn...

EVELYN
Okay.. let's think this through.
What do you want to do?

She sighs and gets up.

SONIA
There's something you should see.

Sonia heads into the bedroom and Evelyn follows close behind.

5.INT. BEDROOM - EVENING

She picks up the letter and gives it to Evelyn. As Evelyn reads, Sonia fiddles at the desk.

EVELYN
I had no idea.

Evelyn picks up the envelope, and closely examines it.

EVELYN

Didn't you say that Evan lives in Montreal? This isn't a Montreal address.

Sonia walks over and examines the letter.

SONIA

Hmmm..I can't believe I never saw this.

She sits on the bed next to Evelyn a bit confused. Evelyn sees the picture and picks it up. Looks at Sonia intently.

EVELYN

Do you still love him?

SONIA

Evelyn..you know it's not that simple.Besides, I need to stay focused.. On my job!

Sonia gets up and stuffs more items in the suitcase. Evelyn gently touches her hands.

EVELYN

Maybe.. (she looks up at Sonia) you should see him.

As if on que, her phones buzzes. Sonia hesitates, then picks up the phone. She reads the message (TEXT):'Fondue, #3 Elm Street @ 2pm?'Then hands the phone to Evelyn who reads it.Evelyn pauses, then hands the phone back to Sonia.

EVELYN

You deserve answers.

She gets up and quietly exits. Sonia sits, indecisive.She looks at the text, then at the picture lying on the bed. After some time she sends a text to Rob:'I'm really sorry. Something's come up'. Then sends a reply to Evan(TEXT): 'OK'.

6. INT. RESTAURANT- AFTERNOON

Sonia sits fidgeting at the table. A few minutes later a waiter comes over and places a bottle of her favourite white wine and two chilled glasses on the table.

WAITER

Compliments of the house.

The waiter pours her a glass. A bit surprised, she looks around expectantly. She sees a man preparing a dish at the back. Something about this is oddly familiar. Sonia looks away.

EVAN, turns around and takes a peek at Sonia sitting at the table. Then goes back to completing the task of cutting

fruit and carefully places them on a platter. He wipes his hands and put on his jacket, smooths his hair and goes to greet her. Sonia looks up and sees the man approaching, as he gets closer, her eyes widen in surprise.

SONIA

Evan? You look slimmer.

She examines him closely and carefully places the glass down and uses a hand to steady herself as she stands up to greet him.

EVAN

(smiling with his eyes)

I'm glad you decided to come.

They sit down a bit awkwardly. Sonia sips wine nervously.

SONIA

This was.. unexpected.

He nods. He pours himself a glass. Silence.

EVAN

(looking at her intently)

Hmmmm... It's been too long.

(After a while..)

Does this place remind you of anything?

Sonia looks around, sips wine.

SONIA

Kinda...(wistful smile)that old cafe..

Another awkward silence. She sits up straighter.

SONIA

So, what's up?

Sonia waits, plays with the bracelet. On spotting it, Evan sits up.

EVAN

(smiling)

You've kept it. Give me a moment.

He gets up and goes to the back of the restaurant. Sonia sits perplexed. Evan emerges a few minutes later with a chocolate dip and fruit on a platter, and places it on the table. Surprised, Sonia looks up at him with a glimmer of a smile.

EVAN

I bought shares in this place a few months back.

Evan sits, Sonia looks at him questionably.

EVAN

There's more.. (pause) For the past year, I've been getting chemo treatments, and have only recently gone in remission (BEAT).

Sonia places her glass down. She looks at him. She looks away processing. Her expression goes from disbelief to confusion and finally comprehension.

SONIA

I had no idea.

Evan nods. He dips a few pieces of fruit in melted chocolate and places it on a saucer. Places it in the front of her. Sonia's phone buzzes jarringly. It's Rob. She sits back and looks at it (TEXT): 'Can we chat? I'm outside your apartment'. Sonia hesitates. She glances at the text on the phone and then back at Evan. She distractedly dips a piece of fruit in the fondue and carefully samples it.

EVAN

Is everything alright?

SONIA

(she avoids the question)

This is not bad.

EVAN

Sonia, I'm still in love..

Sonia places fruit down.

SONIA

(gently)

Stop. Evan, jeez..

She stops, looks away, then back at him.

SONIA

I've been in love with you.. like forever. Part of me still loves you, very much. But, I lost myself back then (BEAT).

(calmly)

I'm finally at a place where I'm okay.

EVAN

I should have trusted you.

Sonia shrugs.

SONIA

It's nobody's fault. I'm glad that you're okay.

She looks at the text again. Then back at him.

SONIA
(firmly)
I really do have to go.

EVAN
It was good to see you.

Sonia gets up and Evan rises with her. She walks over to him and gives him a hug and whispers.

SONIA
The fondue was really good.

Evan smiles, a genuine smile. He watches her as she exits, sampling the fondue with his finger. Sonia's phone buzzes on the way out. She answers, turns and waves at Evan as she exits.